fertilizers and pesticides, in order to ameliorate the conditions of farmers ; if so, the details in this regard;

(b) what is the broad objective in this regard; and

(c) by when this tax is likely to be levied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Closure of PPL Plant

186. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) located at Paradip in Orissa, has been ordered by the Orissa High Court to close the plant from 15th February, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for controlling pollution, as directed by the Pollution Control Board, so as to reopen the Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, based on the inspection report of the plant site by the Orissa State Pollution Control Board on the pollution control measures already implemented and under implementation, the Hon'ble High Court has vacated their interim order restraining Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) from polluting the environment and allowed the company to run the industry till further hearing fixed on 24.6.2002.

Revision of Pay Scales in PPL

187. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa High Court has directed the Union Government to consider the recommendations of the Chairman and Managing

Director of Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL), for revision of pay scales of employees within three months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of India (GOI) has, in the meanwhile, dis-invested 74% of its equity held in Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL). Hence any decision on the proposal for revision of pay scales of its employees will now be taken by the new management.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

188. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the conditionalities yet to be complied with for Assam Gas Cracker Project and action taken to sort out the matter;

(b) the target date set for final decision;

(c) whether promoter has been asked to go ahead with the reduced amount of gas on account of failure of the Oil Companies to fulfill the gas supply agreement.

(d) if so, the response thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The Assam Gas Cracker Project is being implemented by Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Limited (RAPL), a joint venture of Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). The acquisition of land and availability of feestock for the project are yet to be finalized. Site at Lapetkata has been identified by the State Government for setting up the project and they do not envisage any problem in that regard. As regards feedstock, a gas supply agreement between RAPL and Oil India was signed on October 19, 2000. Another gas supply agreement between RAPL and ONGC is in the final